

Approved Minutes of Illinois P-20 Council
January 26, 2011 meeting
1 p.m to 4 p.m.

100 W. Randolph, 2-025 James R. Thompson Center
301 S. 2nd Street, 205 Capitol Building

Participants:

In Chicago: Chairman Miguel del Valle – Office of the Clerk of the City of Chicago

Joshua Anderson—Teach for America

Xian Barrett --- Chicago Teachers Union

Ron Bullock --- Bison Gear

Janel Forde --- Chicago Public Schools (for Terry Mazany)

Dan Harris – Ounce of Prevention (for Diana Rauner)

Erika Hunt --- Illinois State University

Joyce Karon --- former Illinois State Board of Education member

Debra Kasperski --- National Board Certified Teacher

Brenda Klostermann --- Illinois Education Research Council

David Lowitzki --- Service Employees International Union (for Maggie Laslo)

John Luczak --- Joyce Foundation

Max McGee --- Illinois Math and Science Academy

Gerry McLaughlin --- DePaul University (for Fr. Holtschneider)

Dea Meyer --- Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago

Jerry Mitchell --- Illinois House of Representatives

George Reid --- Illinois Board of Higher Education

Darren Reisberg ---- Illinois State Board of Education (for Chris Koch)

John Rico --- Rico Enterprises

Julie Smith --- Governor's Office

Audrey Soglin --- Illinois Education Association

Robin Steans --- Advance Illinois

Rick Stephens --- The Boeing Company

Sharon Thomas Parrott --- DeVry Inc.

Jason Tyszko --- Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

In Springfield: Karen Hunter Anderson—Illinois Community College Board (for Geoff Obrzut)

Ray Hancock---Community College Foundation

Deidre “D.K.” Hirner --- (for Lt. Gov. Simon)

Elaine Johnson – Illinois Community College Board (for Geoff Obrzut)

Michael Johnson---Illinois Association of School Boards

Chris Koch --- Illinois State Superintendent

Debbie Meisner-Bertauski – Illinois Board of Higher Education (for George Reid)

By phone: Perry Buckley---Cook County College Teachers Union

Tom Choice---Kishwaukee College

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon

Debra Strauss---Illinois Parent Teacher Association

Council staff (*in Chicago*): Lizanne DeStefano – Council Coordinator

Ann Courter --- Policy Analyst

Amber Kirchhoff – Governor's Office administrative support

Welcome, Introduction of New Members and Staff, Approval of Minutes, Reminders

Chair Miguel del Valle welcomed members to the quarterly meeting of the Council, and introduced:

- Lt. Governor Sheila Simon, who will be the Governor's point person on education
- Dr. George Reid, the new Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, who was a member of the Maryland P-20 Council, and is a leader in Complete College America
- Dr. Brenda Klostermann, representing the Illinois Education Research Council
- Ann Courter, the new full-time staff Policy Analyst for the P-20 Council

Minutes of the October 27, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Open Meetings Act Requirements – Ann Courter reminded members that all meetings of committees must comply with the Open Meetings Act requirements, and chairs need to ensure that minutes are taken and sent to Amber to be posted on the P-20 Council website.

Share Point, logging-in, & accessing documents – Lizanne DeStefano explained that the Council will be transitioning its website to a University of Illinois server, to allow for easier access by staff, Council members, and the public. However, Council members should continue to use the Share Point site for another 30 days until the new site is ready.

Dates for future meetings – Chair del Valle explained that due to the great volume of information and agenda items before the Council at its quarterly meetings, future meetings will run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. This new schedule will begin with the next meeting on Wednesday, April 27th. Additional meeting dates are: July 27, 2011, October 26, 2011, January 25, 2012, and April 26, 2012.

Approval of P-20 Council First Annual Report

Lizanne DeStefano explained that in December, the committees who had held meetings and developed recommendations sent them to her. One committee has not yet held a meeting, so next year's report will include more from them. She and Ann compiled the recommendations, prepared the draft report, and solicited feedback from the Council members. The changes requested generally were not substantive. All comments were taken into account and will be incorporated. Today the Council will hold a discussion on the draft report and then we hope will approve it. We are working to have the report made public and in the hands of legislators prior to the Governor's February 16th State of the State and Budget Address. The report's stated priorities could influence the budget process over the next several months. Chair del Valle added that all members received the draft two weeks ago and a number of members have made comments. He believes that the Council has allowed ample time for input.

The draft report was discussed by the Council members. Comments from Ron Bullock, as requested, are appended to these minutes. Rick Stephens stated that the report needs more specificity on what, when, how, targets, and measures. Lizanne explained that timelines and metrics would be developed in the next month, but would not be part of the report approved today. Max McGee stated that the Data and Assessments Committee has undertaken the task of

identifying measures and targets. Josh Anderson noted that his committee's Teacher Performance Dashboard recommendation did not make it into the final report. Lizanne replied that all committee reports will be available on the website and linked to the report. The final report elevates the recommendations to the P-20 level, and not every single recommendation is in there. Joyce Karon noted that with the Longitudinal Data System coming online in the future, there will be more options for data, so it is better not to be too specific in this report about what should be measured. Robin Steans suggested that the Council issue quarterly report on progress. Sharon Thomas Parrott agreed, and asked for time frames and next steps by the April meeting. John Rico expressed concern that committees might have overlapping tasks. Lizanne said that she and Ann will try to attend committee meetings, and with minutes posted, that shouldn't be an issue. On some tasks, like the report card revision, more than one committee may be working together. Lizanne noted that for some metrics, the work is being done by entities other than the P-20 Council, so we cannot dictate the time line, but we will send a plan out to everyone for input.

Dea Meyer suggested that the report needs a stronger sense of urgency to address the state of education in Illinois. She also felt more emphasis should be placed on the need for innovation and creativity to find solutions. Max McGee suggested that factoids about patents could be added from the Gathering Storm Revisited report from the National Academies of Science. There was consensus to add a more urgent beginning section to the report. An ad hoc group volunteered to review revised language incorporating urgency: Audrey Soglin, Dea Meyer, Ron Bullock, Xian Barrett, Debra Kasperski, and Janel Forde.

Joyce Karon moved to approve the report, subject to the addition of three points of emphasis to the report: that the issue is urgent, that the Council will develop metrics and a time frame, and that the private sector plays an important role in school to work initiatives. Robin Steans seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the report.

The Council will work to develop dashboard metrics by March, with timelines and a plan for moving ahead, and look into producing quarterly reports.

Report Card Working Group

Supt. Chris Koch reported that of the many education reform proposals in various bills this spring, the revision of the Illinois School Report Card will be taken out of the legislative process and directed to the P-20 Council. The Data and Assessment Committee and the Family, Youth and Community Engagement Committee have agreed to work together to review possible changes to the form and content of the report card, including a proposal to add a school climate survey, utilizing the P-20 broad constituency to gather the best thinking.

In response to a question from Representative Mitchell, Darren Reisberg (ISBE) said that the P-20 Council will not be expected to play a role in every reform proposal. The chart provided to Council members is so that the Council members are aware of recent education reform proposals from different parties that currently are under discussion.

State Education Initiative Updates:

Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee - Darren Reisberg reported that the PEAC has been meeting monthly, with 3 subgroups: teacher evaluation, principal evaluation, and systems issues.

He expects there will be recommendations for JCAR Rulemaking by this summer. Remaining questions include the age of usable data for use in measuring student growth.

Learning Performance Management System – Jason Tyszko reported that the cloud-based data system developed for K-12 will expand to encompass P-20 data needs. Infrastructure for operations such as human resources will be available as a service to districts. The Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and ISBE have secured \$12 million to support the system, on top of the \$20 million for the Longitudinal Data System. Originally, the system was projected to need \$35 million, so it has been scaled back. The University of Illinois National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) is providing technical expertise to develop the system. STEM learning exchanges will come out of this, incorporating the National Career Cluster framework. John Luczak asked what additional funds would be used for if they could be raised from the business and foundation communities. Lizanne commented that to see the system shift from K-12 to P-20 is huge and a great accomplishment. John Rico commented that the Illinois Workforce Board fully supports the LPMS. Chris Koch noted that Illinois is farther along than most states in developing this system.

Advanced Placement Tests/Dual Enrollment - Chris Koch reported that a number of states are passing legislation to provide incentives to students to take AP classes. For example, Indiana passed a law requiring that universities provide credit for a 3 or higher score. This should be on the P20 Council's radar. Rick Stephens said he would provide data from the National Governor's Association showing that remedial education was needed for students getting AP credit, suggesting a question about the validity of the test. Not all Illinois school districts offer AP classes.

Teacher Training and Mentoring – Chris Koch reported that in the first year of the teacher mentoring program, 2420 teachers were mentored, but due to funding reductions in the second year just 1969 were mentored. Three universities are piloting a project of videotaping teachers over a week for performance assessment (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois College, Illinois State University). The Chicago Community Trust and Teach for America are matching ISBE investment for recruitment of minority teachers.

Education Budgets–

Julie Smith reported that even with the 2% income tax increase, there will be no new monies for education. The \$370 million cigarette tax is needed to just keep education funding level. In the future, growth of the state budget will be capped.

IBHE – George Reid reported that the IBHE budget may stay even, which is positive since most states will see cuts this year.

ISAC – Andy Davis reported that the ISAC budget is level or may slightly increase, but that ISAC is able to provide grants to barely half of eligible students

ISBE – Chris Koch reported that the ISBE budget may have a 3.5% increase over FY10, mostly for poverty grants (there are 100,000 more K-12 students living in poverty). The Education

Funding Advisory Board report issued in January 2011 incorporates the basic education expenditures of low-spending schools exhibiting high academic performance. The EFAB set the recommended Foundation Level for General State Aid for FY2012 at \$8360 per pupil. School districts receive an amount of state funding intended to allow them to meet the Foundation Level through a combination of state and local resources—almost no districts receive state aid in the amount of the full foundation level. The state budget provides only enough funding to support a Foundation Level of \$6416.

ICCB – Elaine Johnson reported there are record enrollments again; a number of community college boards are exploring tuition increases, and some are fiscally unstable.

Ron Bullock noted that “the most important economic driver is education,” and that innovation will keep us ahead of the rest of the world.

Complete College America Update - In February 2010 Illinois became a charter member, one of 17 states committed to increasing college completion rates. Illinois is sending a team to attend a Complete College America academy March 3-5. States will work to improve college completion rates at individual colleges and universities; to eradicate remediation; and to develop new calendars and grading. There are now 23 member states. One goal is to go after previously enrolled students who did not complete. Ron Bullock advised to be sure they are including other high quality credentials besides degrees. Dr. Reid said that they are doing so.

ISBE Streamlining Task Force recommendations – Chris Koch reported that the Task Force met in 2010 and issued a report last fall. That report is in the members’ packets. In 1980 and 1990 there were similar task forces that showed inefficiencies and duplication in systems. This most recent Task Force has specific recommendations for Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, and Education for Employment Centers. Chris was asked to make sure all Council members receive an electronic copy of the report, also. Chris commented that these recommendations are real, we’ve studied them for 30 years, and he’s ready to implement them now. Chair del Valle asked how P20 Council could assist. Chris said he will send recommendations to the Council members so they can think about them and discuss at the next quarterly P-20 Council meeting.

Higher Education Finance Commission – IBHE – George Reid reported that the Commission has the following recommendations:

The state needs to ensure adequacy and stability in education funding;

The burden of unfunded state mandates needs to be reviewed;

The state should move forward in performance-based funding (Dr. Reid noted, however, that we need to compare colleges against themselves from a starting point rather than comparing institutions against each other);

The state’s financial aid policy should be reviewed to ensure affordability;

Review academic programming and eliminate unnecessary duplicate programming.

Pre-school for All Funding Formula – Julie Smith reported that the Pew Center issued a report addressing how states fund their preschool for all programming. The report is on the P20 Council share point site. In Illinois preschool is currently funded through a block grant process.

Pew looked at states that build preschool into the state funding formula. Julie is going to work with Chris Koch and the Early Learning Council to examine this, and hopes to hold a meeting in early February to discuss. This would include how to incorporate community based options in the system and ensure we don't jeopardize those successful providers.

Committee updates:

Data and Assessment - Robin Steans reported that in the annual reports going forward we can build tangible goals into the reports.

Teacher & Leadership – Erika Hunt reported that they are making progress in looking at evaluation of leadership. They need to start to look at assistant principals and other leadership now. They are talking with the Fry Foundation about possible funding to assist with this committee.

College & Career Readiness – John Rico said their next meeting is scheduled for February 16th at noon, but the Governor's address is scheduled for that timeframe, so they will likely change the meeting.

Finance & Governance – Ray Hancock reported that the committee will meet in February but the date is not yet set. There are seven members on the committee: Ron Bullock, Diana Rauner, Kathy Ryg, Laurel Prussing, Michael Johnson, Gary Niehaus, Ray Hancock.

Family & Community – Debra Strauss reported that rather than hold committee meetings with themselves, they believe it will be more effective to hold discussions with statewide collaborators. They want to identify one person from the committee who could sit on other statewide P20 groups around the state.

Other Business: Representative Jerry Mitchell said that he is going to sponsor a resolution that will require reports to come to the P-20 Council for review before new legislation is enacted. For example, the Kindergarten Readiness Council has a report ready. It should go to the P-20 Council for review.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson and Ann Courter

Comments by Ron Bullock on P-20 Council Draft Report

As one of the business representatives on the P-20 Council, I think the report makes some valid points and I applaud the emphasis on the longitudinal data gathering – you cannot improve that which is not measured. Shifting emphasis to core standards, including math skills, should develop people with the requisite skills needed in the private sector in an increasingly competitive world. The discussion on the Learning Performance Management System led by Jason Tyscko (Agenda Item 5b) is fundamental to the launch of the STEM Learning Exchanges later this year, which will engage businesses in helping students value math and science as they learn how it is used and applied. That said, I have the following comments for consideration.

In paragraph one, noting that “School board members in Illinois’ 868 districts, and the governing boards of our colleges and universities, are struggling to find funding and set local policies to support their work.” might seem tone deaf coming on the heels of the lame duck session that enacted the largest tax increase in Illinois history on our citizens and businesses. I would suggest that these officials focus on their stewardship of our funds by eliminating waste and setting policies that provide the skill sets needed in today’s global economy. Of course, the fact that we have 868 school districts might tend to undercut that argument.

The goal of the P-20 Council is "60% by 2025". We also talk about the pipeline problem with teachers. Businesses also have the same boomer generation pipeline problem, and we can't wait until 2025 for it to be solved! In manufacturing, I estimate we need 30,000 new hires each year over the next decade just to replace boomer retirements. We should start with getting Career Readiness Certificates widely issued and go from there: this could ramp up in pretty quick order with the addition of the third test and help us in the goal of credential attainment. This item would be peanuts in the state's education budget and as we're being asked for more taxes, I would like to see the money spent where it will do the private sector some good.

My bias is to get young people of limited means into decent paying jobs in manufacturing and other businesses out of high school so that they can engage in a "learn while you earn" mode (it's what I did on the path to my engineering degree). First, they need to have the basic skills to perform in an entry level position, and this is where the system has broken down. A high school diploma doesn't have much currency anymore, and we have performance correlations with Work Keys - e.g., level 4-5 required to do the work on Manufacturing Skills Standards Certification, feedback on 1400 DOL job classifications, et al.

I look forward to our discussions on Wednesday, January 26th.

**Ron Bullock
Chairman, Bison Gear & Engineering Corp.**